



Arlington Tree Committee Minutes

Date: *January 9, 2019*

Time: *7:30pm*

Location: *Lyons Hearing Room, Town Hall*

Attendance: Eliza Burden, Susan Stamps, Mary Ellen Aronow, Steve Moore, Tim Lecuivre, John Ellis, Brian Turnbaugh, Mara Vatz, Keith Schnebly, Ed Trembly.

Visitors: Beth Melofchik, JoAnn Preston.

Note taking for meeting minutes – Mara Vatz

1. **Approve Dec meeting minutes.** Name spelling corrections to minutes. Steve makes a motion to approve, Brian seconds, minutes approved unanimously, none opposed.
2. **Orienting New Members (Dropbox, etc).** Eliza added a “who’s who” in Arlington to “new member info” in dropbox for new members, based on John’s suggestions earlier to add basic info that is helpful to us.

John Ellis is moving to Finance Committee. This is his last meeting. Technically his term ended in September 2018. Joining us officially now are Keith Schnebly and Phil Tedesco.

3. DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)

- Tree hearing(s)
 - A. No tree hearings on the docket. Prior hearing, at 15 Kensington, said he didn’t want to pursue the appeal, and now he does want to appeal. Tim will let us know when that is on the agenda. The SB should let Steve know when that will be on the agenda. A number of people objected—(JoAnn Preston), they received three letters.
 - B. Question: will Marie Krepelka communicate to the objectors when the appeal will be on the SB agenda? MEA will send a note to Marie to remind her.
- Tree Bylaw activity
 - A. Tim reviewed all bylaw plans. Most have submitted tree plans, and are still in the works. There seems to be a loophole: because of the 180 day planting period, builder can sell the house without planting the tree, and by the time 180 days comes up, the homeowner doesn’t want the tree. Another problem is watering. Subcommittee has discussed these issues. Tough to enforce. This is the reason it is important to remove the “or plant a new tree” from the bylaw.
- Spring planting; tree order will be placed in Feb
 - A. In a month, when nursery sends spring catalog, Tim will look at options. Right now we have 100 requests in the queue, and an extra 50 to plant in tree zone
 2. Meeting with BU folks to look at heat islands to help with planting efforts.
 - B. Lucy Huytra’s BU grad student (Luca Morreale). Arlington’s Ken Pruitt writes grants on climate change impacts. Now we can provide measurable benefits. Student will meet with Tim and recommend locations and species, run calculations about climate mitigating benefits, so next time town has grant application we’ll have several shovel ready planting projects. Would be great to invite Luca to a meeting and have him do a presentation.

- C. JoAnn Preston: Metropolitan Planning Council is trying to increase density on Mass Ave, Summer, and Broadway. Plan includes decreasing setback and she's concerned there's no room for tree planting in these projects.
- Snowplows, salt and impact on trees
 - A. As a follow-up to a note written by Eliza about snow plow damage to trees, Tim had a discussion with public works director, he'll have a discussion with supervisors and contractors about proper snow removal in Arlington. As far as road salt, he has no real news. Cambridge is doing a trial with brine.
- Grant applications
 - A. CDBG—mostly geared towards low income designated areas. Eliza wonders how can trees become part of the effort. ADA compliance with sidewalks is CDBG grant money that comes into DPW. Ironically with some sidewalk improvements we are damaging trees.
- Tree inventory data updated and progress on integration with Town GIS software
 - A. DCR liked the report, it's been accepted, we got the reimbursement.

18 Harvard st, DPW director saw a building going up, tree in front of driveway just like Webcowet. Developer is Nelson Construction. Tim noticed 13 stumps on the property. Went to building department, when they got project approval, added up the days, it was back in March, there was a fine of \$300/tree/day, added up to like \$80,000. Assistant Town Manager Jim Feeney came out to see it. This issue is in the hands of town manager and town counsel.

4. Community Tree Canopy Program – Spring 2019?

- No discussion

5. Old Business. No discussion

- **Emerald Ash Borer**
- **Gas Leaks**
- **Procedures for town projects and watering update**
- **Tree Construction guidelines; update info based on webinar**

6. 1Bylaw Subgroup Report

- Susan explained 4 proposed changes to the bylaw:
 - 1) DBH of protected tree from 10" to 6"
 - 2) Tree Plan Changes – Add location of nearby street trees on the Tree Plan
 - 3) Remove the mitigation option of replacing trees
 - 4) Expand rule making authority to the Select Board
- Committee discussed DBH proposed change, additional penalty for trees which die a year after construction, weed vs invasives, and the differences between Arlington's urban forest and neighboring towns with more open space.

Mara makes Motion to accept revisions to bylaw with the change that we will ask to decrease diameter from 10" to 8" (instead of to 6") and we will remove the phrase "and each street tree shown"

In favor: eliza, susan, mary ellen, steve, john, brian, mara, keith.

Abstain: Ed

7. Publicity / Community Outreach

- Publicize completion of Tree Management Plan (Social Media; Advocate, etc)
- Planning for spring trees
- Success of 2017 Community Canopy Program

8. New Business. No discussion

Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13.